

INSIDE: Taylor Branch • Terrific Teachers • Jewish Studies • \$5 million gifts

C A R O L I N A
ARTS & SCIENCES

FALL • 2006

CONNECTED LEARNING AND LIVING

Cobb Hall students collaborate 24/7



THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL

FROM THE DEAN

Carolina Arts & Sciences • Fall 2006



Madeline G. Levine

Creativity and connectivity across the College

It's an honor and a pleasure to be serving as interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences while the search is under way for a new dean. As a long-time faculty member of the College, I join my colleagues in congratulating former Dean Bernadette Gray-Little on her promotion to executive vice-chancellor and provost for the University.

As a professor in the Slavic languages and literatures department since 1974, I've seen first hand how the

College's approach to undergraduate education makes Carolina unique. In this issue of *Carolina Arts & Sciences*, you'll read about the new Connected Learning Program in Cobb Residence Hall, where undergraduate students live and work together on interdisciplinary projects of their own design. .

Continuing our focus on the undergraduate experience, we feature College faculty who excel in teaching and research. Psychology professor Joe Lowman and historian Peter Filene have won the highest University teaching honors, including the Bowman and Gordon Gray professorships. And Jodi Magness, a leading archaeologist of ancient Palestine, shares her expertise with students in the classroom and on annual digs to Israel.

You can also see how our faculty and students make connections across the disciplines. You'll read about how our Carolina Center for Jewish Studies draws on faculty strengths and courses in political science, American studies, religious studies, history, English, Germanic languages and literatures, and Slavic languages and literatures.

Our students and faculty also make connections around the world. We share a dispatch from Stephanie Preston, a junior international studies major who was nearing the completion of an internship at *The Daily Star* in Beirut, when the conflict between Israel and Lebanon escalated.

The College's Institute for the Arts and Humanities, which provides support for faculty to make connections with colleagues across the University, is expanding its mission to help faculty grow as leaders. The institute has received a \$5 million gift from alumni Barbara and Pitt Hyde. Their support will endow and name the Ruel W. Tyson Academic Leadership Program in honor of the extraordinary teacher and leader who directed the institute for nearly 20 years, from its inception to his recent retirement. The Hydes' gift will help cultivate the next generation of bold academic leaders.

In other exciting news, FedEx has given \$5 million to support the stunning global education building that will open on campus this spring, housing most of the College's international programs under one roof.

Finally, we share an excerpt from alumnus Taylor Branch's latest book in his trilogy on Martin Luther King Jr. *At Canaan's Edge* covers one of the most tumultuous periods of modern U.S. history, 1965-68. Branch spent those years at Carolina, where he earned a B.A. in political science and history in the College.

The teaching, research, learning and facilities highlighted in our magazine are supported by a combination of state and private funds, including the generous support of our alumni and friends, many of whom are listed in our Honor Roll.

They demonstrate that a connection to Carolina and the College of Arts and Sciences lasts a lifetime — and can leave a legacy for many generations of students.

Madeline G. Levine, Interim Dean

THE COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

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Interim Dean
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*Senior Associate Dean,
Fine Arts and Humanities*
- Bruce Carney
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- Arne Kalleberg
*Senior Associate Dean, Social Sciences
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Cover photo: From left, undergraduates Ivana Vit, Rezwan Ahmed, Naman Shah, Kevin Henderson and Brittany Ballance, in front of Cobb Hall, where they chose to live in order to collaborate on a project that advanced understanding and treatment of malaria in Guyana. (Photo by Steve Exum)

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We salute alumni and friends for their generous support of the College of Arts and Sciences.

inside back cover

COMING SOON

Global warming expert Wallace Broecker, foreign policy analyst Richard Haass and award-winning novelist Tim O'Brien are among the luminaries speaking on campus in the coming months.

Remarkable students

The scholarships keep rolling in for **Nicholas Love** '05, who is pursuing graduate studies in biology and plans a career in stem cell research. Love of Brighton, Mich., a biology graduate, added a 2006 Luce Scholarship and a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship to the list.

Love had already won two other highly competitive scholarships — a Churchill and a Goldwater — while at UNC. The Luce Scholarship will allow him to study for a year in Japan and to pursue his interest in tissue regeneration research.

The College of Arts and Sciences had two Luce scholars this year, with **David Chapman** '03 also receiving one. Chapman of Northbrook, Ill., is assistant director of the Chicago Shakespeare Theatre. The former Fulbright Scholar is a dramatic art graduate. Chapman hopes to develop lasting artistic collaborations with international artists and to learn more about theater in Vietnam.

College students won a number of other distinguished scholarships this year:

- **E. Mary Williams**, a senior political science and religious studies major, won a Truman Scholarship. Williams of Washington, D.C., is the second Robertson Scholar in a row from Carolina to win the Truman, given to students committed to careers in public service, government, education or the nonprofit sector. She plans to earn master's and doctorate degrees in education and work toward equal access to quality education in American schools.
- **Adam J. Roberts**, a senior mathematics and computer science major, was awarded a Barry M. Goldwater



Nicholas Love



Mary Williams



Adam J. Roberts

Scholarship. Roberts of Midland, N.C., also is pursuing a minor in astronomy. He plans to pursue a doctorate in computer science and build data analysis tools for scientists, especially physicists and astronomers. The Goldwater is given to undergraduates who demonstrate a strong commitment to careers in mathematics, the natural sciences or engineering.

- **Nitin Sekar**, a junior biology and environmental science major, won a Morris K. Udall Scholarship for academic excellence and commitment to preserving the environment. The scholarship will help Sekar of Cincinnati, Ohio, realize his goals of studying the connections between wildlife conservation and poverty reduction throughout the world. He plans to pursue graduate studies in animal behavior and evolutionary biology.

- **Thomas A. Thekkekandam** '04 of Durham, N.C., received a Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship, one of the nation's most generous merit scholarships for graduate school. Thekkekandam, who majored in political science and psychology, will



Thomas A. Thekkekandam



Katelyn Love

pursue an MBA at UNC and a law degree at Duke University. He wants to specialize in international and human rights law and in sustainable enterprise and entrepreneurship. Since graduation, Thekkekandam has worked for The Fund for Public Interest Research and The Link Group, a market research firm with offices in Atlanta and Durham.

- **Katelyn Love**, a junior political science and international studies major, received a David L. Boren Scholarship to pursue a year of study abroad in Syria at the French Institute of Arab Studies of Damascus. Love of Columbus, N.C., hopes to become fluent in Arabic; she already speaks French, Estonian and Spanish. Love's possible career goals include working as a political analyst or translator.

HIGH ACHIEVERS

Award-winning academic advisers

Academic advisers in the College are on a winning streak. Three won awards from the National Academic Advising Association, and another was recognized with a top UNC advising honor.

The national winners are **Carolyn Cannon**, associate dean and director of Academic Advising; **Alice C. Dawson**, assistant director of Academic Advising; and **Todd Austell**, faculty adviser for chemistry majors, academic adviser for the sciences and a research assistant professor. **Daniel Anderson**, associate professor of English, was named an Abbey Fellow by the College for his excellent work in academic advising.

Cannon has “transformed the face of advising at UNC-Chapel Hill,” said Bobbi Owen, senior associate dean for undergraduate education. She oversees a staff of 19 full-time advisers, 28 part-time faculty advisers and 11 staff support members. In July, another five full-time advisers were added to the program.

Dawson has previously won the Mickel-Shaw Excellence in Advising Award twice — the maximum allowed under the advising program’s selection procedure.

Austell has received three University advising awards: the Mickel-Shaw Excellence in Advising Award in 1997, the College of Arts and Sciences Excellence in

Advising Award in 1999 and the Class of 1996 Excellence in Advising Award in 2002. He also has won top teaching awards, including a Graduate Teaching Award in 1990, a Students’ Undergraduate Teaching Award in 2002 and a James M. Johnston Teaching Excellence Award in 2004.

Anderson is director of undergraduate studies in the department of English, where he oversees advising for English majors. For the past decade, he has been at the forefront of efforts to integrate information technologies into the teaching of writing and literature.

The Abbey Fellows Program — begun in 2004 with a \$1 million gift from 1974 alumna Nancy Abbey and her husband, Douglas, of San Francisco — is designed to enhance academic advising for undergraduates as they enter their major fields of study. •

BELOW, FROM LEFT: Alice Dawson, Carolyn Cannon and Todd Austell won national advising awards.



AND THE OSCAR GOES TO...

Tar Heel fever heated up the 2006 Academy Awards, with a Carolina student and an alum winning Oscars, and another alum being nominated for one.

History grad **Hughes Winborne '75**, a Raleigh native, won a film editing Oscar for *Crash*. The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences honored the movie with two other Oscars — for best picture and best original screenplay — out of six nominations.

Winborne has been editing films since the early '90s, previously making a name for himself with a number of independent films, most notably Billy Bob Thornton's Academy Award-winning 1996 drama, *Sling Blade*.

Dramatic art graduate **Jim Bissell '73** also was nominated for an Oscar for art direction for *Good Night and Good Luck*, the Hollywood hit about broadcast journalist Edward R. Murrow.

Sean Overbeeke '06, who minored in the writing for the screen and stage program in the College of Arts and

Sciences, won a first-place gold medal in the 33rd annual Student Academy Awards, which recognize the country's most promising young filmmakers. His film, *Christmas Wish List*, which was filmed on Franklin Street, competed in the narrative category.

Overbeeke's film had already taken second place in the Angelus Student Film Festival, one of the top student film festivals in the country, and it was shown at the Sundance Film Festival.

Overbeeke grew up in Enfield, Conn. He is already at work on a script for his next film. •

HIGH ACHIEVERS

KALLEBERG NAMED PRESIDENT-ELECT OF AMERICAN SOCIOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Sociologist and senior associate dean **Arne L. Kalleberg** has been named president-elect of the American Sociological Association (ASA) and will become president for a one-year term beginning in August 2007.

Election to president is the highest honor ASA members can bestow on a colleague. As president, he also will serve as chair of the ASA Council, which governs the association and its policies. The ASA, the largest professional association for sociologists, has nearly 14,000 members and publishes 10 professional journals and magazines.

Kalleberg is Kenan Distinguished Professor of Sociology and senior associate dean for social sciences and international programs in the College. He also is a fellow of the Carolina Population Center.

Kalleberg served as secretary of ASA from 2001-2004 and twice chaired the organizations, occupations and work section.

His research and teaching focus on labor force issues at the interface of sociology, economics and psychology. He studies flexible staffing arrangements — such as temporary, part-time and contract work — looking at the quality of such jobs, employers' motivations for creating them and workers' reasons for taking them.

His current projects also include an analysis of changes in job quality in the United States, the nature of the working poor in America, an assessment of major ways in which people and jobs are mismatched in industrial societies and analyses of cross-national attitudes toward work.

He has published more than 100 articles and chapters and co-authored or co-edited nine books. •

YARDLEY WINS PULITZER

Carolina alumnus **Jim Yardley**, a foreign correspondent for *The New York Times*, won a Pulitzer Prize in international reporting, along with the *Times*' Beijing Bureau Chief

Joseph Kahn, for their "ambitious stories on ragged justice in China as the booming nation's legal system evolves."

Yardley, who has been in China since 2003, received a B.A. in history from UNC in 1986. He is the son of two Carolina alumni and journalists: *Greensboro News & Record* columnist Rosemary Roberts (journalism '60) and *Washington Post* book critic Jonathan Yardley (English '61), a 1981 Pulitzer Prize winner.

Jim Yardley has traveled throughout China and written on a wide range of topics, including social unrest, rising inequality and the country's widespread pollution problems. He joined *The Times* in 1997 as a metropolitan reporter in New York and moved to the national desk in August 1999 as bureau chief in Houston. He covered presidential politics, the collapse of Enron, the death penalty and water policy. In the months after the Sept. 11 terror attacks, he wrote many investigative pieces about the hijackers. •

TWO ELECTED TO AMERICAN ACADEMY OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Biologist **Edward D. "Ted" Salmon** and historian **Christopher Browning** were elected 2006 fellows of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences for preeminent contributions to their fields and society.

They join a distinguished list of new fellows and honorary foreign members which includes former Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton, Supreme Court Chief



LEFT TO RIGHT: Arne L. Kalleberg, "Ted" Salmon, Christopher Browning



ABOVE: Jim Yardley along the Yellow River in central China.

Justice John Roberts and director Martin Scorsese.

Salmon, the James Larkin and Iona Mae Ballou Distinguished Professor, is an internationally recognized cell biologist who studies the mechanisms by which microtubules generate forces for chromosome separation during cell division and for cell motility. Such forces affect the development of cancer.

Browning, the Frank Porter Graham Distinguished Professor, specializes in the history of the Holocaust and Nazi Germany. He has written extensively about the decision-making process that launched the "Final Solution" and the motivation of the perpetrators. He has published seven books in the field of Holocaust studies, including two that have been awarded the National Jewish Book Award in the Holocaust category. •

HIGH ACHIEVERS

Four more teaching stars

Four scholars have been awarded Bowman and Gordon Gray Distinguished Term Professorships, among the University's most prestigious awards for excellence in outstanding undergraduate teaching.

The late Gordon Gray '30 and the estate of Bowman Gray Jr. '29 established the professorships in 1980 in the College. Bernard Gray '72 of Atlanta significantly enhanced the professorships in 1999.

"The most important effort that UNC can expend is to attract and retain outstanding faculty," said Bernard Gray, now president of Gray Ventures in Atlanta. "The four new professors appointed this year exemplify the high standards to which the Bowman and Gordon Gray Professorship program aspires."

Rachel Willis, associate professor of American studies, and **Bland Simpson**, associate professor and director of the English department's creative writing program, were named to five-year professorships effective July 1, 2006. **Valerie Ashby**, associate professor of chemistry, and **Patrick Conway**, professor of economics, were named to professorships effective from July 1, 2007.

Willis has developed innovative courses for the American studies curriculum, including "The Role of the University in American Life." Her students travel to unusual parts of the community and area university campuses to explore how access to education is affected by history, resources and the physical development of the campuses.

She has won two University teaching awards, multiple Senior Class Superlative Faculty Awards and the first Bryan Award for Public Service for her role in creating the Carolina Center for Public Service and contributing to the APPLES service-learning program.

Simpson has directed the College's creative writing program since 2002 and taught in the program since 1982. Last year he was awarded the state's highest civilian honor, the North Carolina Award, in the fine arts category.

He won a UNC Tanner Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching in 2004. He has written a novel and three books of nonfiction, and is a member of the Tony Award-winning string band The Red Clay Ramblers.

Ashby, who came to Carolina in 2004, was named Iowa State University Teacher of the Year in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in 2001. The American Chemical Society named her one of the top 12 young female chemists in the country in 2002. Her other awards include a 3M Young Faculty Award, a DuPont Young Faculty Award and an NSF Early Career Development Award.

Conway has taught introductory, international and development economics, as well as macroeconomics, to undergraduate and graduate students, and the first-year seminar, "The Economics of North Carolina." He won the William C. Friday/Class of 1986 Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2001 and has won a total of five awards from the economics department for excellence in teaching undergraduate and graduate students. •

DURBAN'S ESSAY SELECTED FOR PUSHCART PRIZE

An essay by **Pam Durban**, the Doris Betts Distinguished Professor of Creative Writing, has been selected for the 2006 edition of the *Pushcart Prize Best of the Small Presses* anthology.

The book will be published in November.

Durban's essay, "Clocks," which was first published in the literary magazine *Shenandoah*, will be included in volume 31 of the anthology.

"Clocks" is about the death of the writer's father and her observations on how his sense of time served him throughout his life. The piece is among a series of Durban's essays on the death of parents.

The Pushcart Prize series, published every year since 1976, has been named among the most influential projects in the history of American publishing by *Publishers Weekly*. Small magazine and book press editors annually may make up to six nominations from their publications for the prize.

According to *Library Journal*, "These authors are not only our finest storytellers, poets and essayists, they are also the guardians of our language."

Durban came to Carolina in 2001 from Georgia State University, where she was director of the creative writing program. She is the author of two novels and a collection of short fiction. •



Pam Durban



Valerie Ashby



Patrick Conway

HIGH ACHIEVERS

GUGGENHEIMS AWARDED TO PERDUE, STIMSON

Historian **Theda Perdue** and political scientist **James Stimson** were awarded Guggenheim Fellowships, which recognize and support their research. The fellowships honor distinguished past achievement and exceptional promise for future accomplishment.

Perdue, Atlanta Distinguished Term Professor of History, will use her fellowship for the book project, "American Indians in the segregated South: 1865-1965."

Stimson, Raymond Dawson Bicentennial Distinguished Professor of Political Science, will use his fellowship for the book project, "The liberalism of professed conservatives in America."

Perdue's book, under contract to UNC Press, will explore how Native American communities across the South managed to survive in the 19th and early 20th centuries — especially in the face of segregation laws that demanded that they be classified as either black or white. In this context, there was no place for Native Americans, many of whom lived in historical anonymity, without treaties, formal tribal governments or in many cases, even names for themselves, Perdue said.

"Reconstructing their story requires piecing together fragments that are scattered across the centuries since Europeans first arrived in the Americas," Perdue said.

Perdue's overall research focuses on Native Americans of the southeastern United States and on gender in Native societies.

Stimson will explore the group of citizens he calls "conflicted conservatives" with his fellowship.

When Americans are asked to describe themselves in terms of ideology, far more people — by a margin of almost two to one — choose the label "conservative" than its opposite, "liberal," Stimson said. But it is also true that when asked to choose between policies, American voters choose liberal over conservative options by almost that same two to one margin, he added.



Theda Perdue



James Stimson



Dinesh Manocha

"We know that conflicted conservatives are a sizable group, about 22 percent of all Americans, which almost matches the numbers of real liberals and real conservatives," said Stimson, who is working on a book about the topic. "We know who they are, and we can track their attitudes and behaviors. What is much less clear is *why*?"

Stimson's overall research focuses on macro theory and American politics. •

MANOCHA NAMED PHI DELTA THETA/MATTHEW MASON PROFESSOR

Dinesh Manocha, an expert in computer graphics and geometric modeling, has been named the Phi Delta Theta/Matthew Mason Distinguished Professor.

The new professorship in the College is the second endowed chair to be funded by a fraternity at UNC. Philosophy scholar C.D.C. "David" Reeve was named Delta Kappa Epsilon (DKE) Distinguished Professor in summer 2005.

Under the leadership of Shoff Allison '98 of Charlotte, 243 donors raised nearly \$736,000 in gifts and pledges for the Phi Delta Theta/Matthew Mason Professorship. Garnett Smith '69 of Naples, Fla., gave the lead gift of \$100,000.

The professorship qualifies for a matching grant of \$334,000 from the North Carolina Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund, bringing the endowment to more than \$1 million. It is named in honor of the late Matthew Mason of Chapel Hill, a

beloved, long-time employee of the Phi Delta Theta house who was made a member of the fraternity later in his career.

Manocha has been on UNC's computer science faculty since 1992. His research on mathematical foundations and applications has been used in scientific computations, robotics, 3-D computer graphics and virtual reality by the scientific community, the computer industry and the entertainment world.

He has published more than 200 papers with his collaborators. With Ming C. Lin, also a computer science professor, Manocha leads the GAMMA research group in the computer science department. The group has produced several research software libraries that have been downloaded by tens of thousands of users and licensed by more than 40 commercial vendors.

Manocha teaches courses on graphics, modeling and robotics. He has supervised more than 35 master's and doctoral students. He and his students have won at least eight best paper awards at major computer science conferences.

His research awards include UNC's Hettleman Award for Scholarly Achievement in 1998, the Alfred P. Sloan Research Fellowship from the Sloan Foundation in 1995, the Young Investigator Award from the Office of Naval Research in 1996 and the National Science Foundation CAREER Award in 1995.

The sorority Delta Delta Delta at UNC is leading a campaign to fund the first sorority professorship. •

HIGH ACHIEVERS



Alan Shapiro

SHAPIRO'S
WORK
SELECTED
FOR BEST
AMERICAN
ANTHOLOGIES

An essay and poem by English professor **Alan Shapiro** have been selected for 2006 editions of two Best

American anthologies.

Shapiro, an award-winning writer, is the William R. Kenan Jr. Distinguished Professor of English in the creative writing program. His essay, "Why Write?" was chosen for *Best American Essays 2006*, and his poem, "Misjudged Flyball" was chosen for *Best American Poetry 2006*. The books are due out this fall from Houghton Mifflin. Editors read through hundreds of poems published in journals and magazines across the country to select poems for inclusion in the anthologies.

Both of Shapiro's pieces appeared in the spring 2005 issue of *The Cincinnati Review* and will be included in his upcoming books. The poem and essay are about Shapiro's friend, Tim Dekin, who died in 2001 of a rare lung disorder.

Shapiro won the 2005 Roanoke-Chowan Award for Poetry, one of North Carolina's most prestigious book awards, for *Tantalus in Love* (Houghton Mifflin, 2005). He won the same award in 2002 for *Song and Dance*.

Shapiro is the author of eight books of poetry. He also has written works of criticism, translation and two memoirs, of which *The Last Happy Occasion* was a finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award. •

Sing Out: UNC grad student edits folk music magazine

Blaine Waide's new job is in perfect harmony with his longtime interest in folk culture. Waide, a UNC folklore graduate student, became the managing editor of *Sing Out!* magazine in summer 2006. Pete Seeger was instrumental in the founding of the magazine, and its title comes from "The Hammer Song" that Seeger co-wrote with Lee Hays.

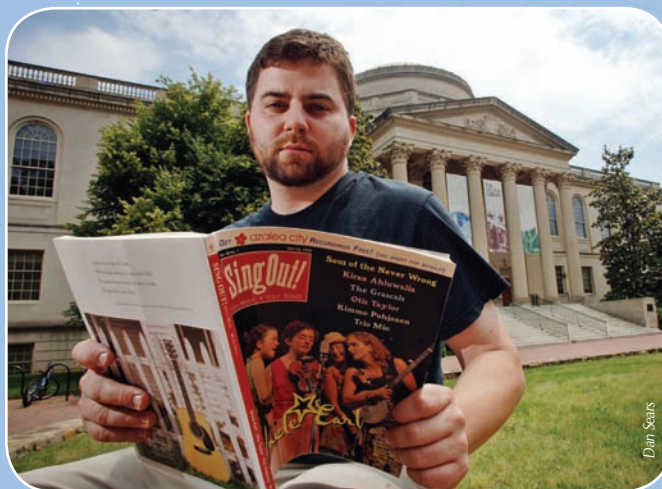
For 56 years, the pioneering publication has been covering the breadth of folk music. Singers Joan Baez; Peter, Paul and Mary; Bob Dylan and Doc Watson have been featured.

Waide is a huge fan of blues music. His undergraduate honors thesis at the University of Arkansas was on blues in folklore, with field work done at "a juke joint in Mississippi." In high school, he listened to Dylan and Jerry Garcia and later, Muddy Waters.

Blues from the Delta, a book by UNC's Bill Ferris, the Joel R. Williamson Eminent Professor of History, had a huge impact on Waide.

"It largely shaped how I approached the topic and was far and away the most influential book on the subject I had read," Waide said.

Ferris later became Waide's master's thesis adviser, and Waide helped to process the film portion of Ferris' work for UNC's Southern Folklife Collection. The admiration is mutual.



ABOVE: Blaine Waide is the new managing editor of *Sing Out!*, the magazine founded by Pete Seeger.

"As a graduate student in the curriculum in folklore, Blaine did a pioneering study of folk art and musical traditions in the Piedmont," said Ferris, who also is senior associate director of the Center for the Study of the American South.

In this next chapter of his life, Waide hopes to write about current issues affecting blues music for *Sing Out!* And he'll be working on his master's thesis, which will explore periods of folk revivalism in the 1930s, 1960s and today — including the "O Brother, Where Art Thou?" movie-and-music phenomenon.

In 2004, Waide won the Cratis D. Williams Prize, given annually by the North Carolina Folklore Society to the best graduate study of the state's folk life. Waide wrote about the Winston-Salem blues scene, and his piece was published in the *North Carolina Folklore Journal*.

Sing Out! claims as part of its mission "to encourage making folk music a part of our everyday lives."

As the publication's new managing editor, Waide is delighted to carry that torch.

"I'm interested in the magazine's goal of keeping folk culture present and active." •



CONNECTING

By Dee Reid • Photos by Steve Exum

PICTURE THIS: Four undergraduates spend their winter break in a Latin American country plagued by malaria and poverty. They fight stifling humidity, deadly mosquitoes, government bureaucracy and occasionally each other, while sharing a cramped hotel room in a strange land. Just as they are about to give up on their mission, doors open leading to unexpected lessons about themselves and their ability to affect change in the world.

the Dots 24/7

Cobb Hall students live and work together for change

This is not a script for “reality” TV. No one was voted off the continent or sent home to collect a million dollars. Instead, our intrepid heroes are Carolina students who became good friends while living in a unique residential hall on campus during the academic year and traveling abroad during their winter holiday to enhance awareness, prevention and treatment of malaria in the developing world.



Left to Right:

During a three-week visit to Guyana on the northern coast of South America, they trained healthcare personnel and set up a drug-resistance study, gathered information for an educational brochure and children's coloring book for the national nutrition program, took photos documenting one family's struggle with poverty and disease and, in their spare time, volunteered at a children's aid center.

Back on campus they conducted molecular research, sponsored educational programs, finished their publications, transcribed and edited a documentary and shared their results during the annual symposium on undergraduate research at the end of the year.

Their story begins in Chapel Hill with the development of the Connected Learning Program at UNC's Cobb Residence Hall — a new and innovative experiment in living and learning together 24/7. Malaria project members Rezwan Ahmed, Brittany Ballance, Kevin Henderson, Naman Shah and Ivana Vu comprise just one of 10 groups of students — about 60 in all — who earned their places on the first floor of the handsomely renovated co-ed residence on Country Club Boulevard by agreeing to work together on ambitious, interdisciplinary learning projects of their own design.

The Cobb program is a joint project of Housing and Residential Education in

Student Affairs and the James M. Johnston Center for Undergraduate Excellence in the College of Arts and Sciences. The inaugural year was supported by each organization's general funds, with students raising supplementary funds on their own.

• A NEW TWIST ON RESIDENTIAL LEARNING

Lots of universities have themed housing set aside for students who wish to live together while practicing a foreign language or exploring an emerging issue. And other schools encourage students to engage in hands-on learning as part of a growing trend in experiential education. What's different about Carolina is that it combines and expands these concepts by inviting multiple groups of students with diverse interests and knowledge to live together in Cobb Hall while tackling a range of topics. Each group is given about \$1,000 to launch a self-directed project. The teams must create a realistic plan and budget, raise additional funds and do whatever it takes to reach their goals, including educational activities on and off campus.

The idea is for students to shape their own learning beyond the traditional boundaries of disciplines and classrooms, to draw connections between their academic studies and their lives, to excel in their individual interests and to collaborate with peers and faculty advisers on a group enterprise designed to expand their

intellectual horizons. Program participants include first-year and transfer students who apply for coveted spots in Cobb before arriving on campus and upper-class students who serve as project mentors.

The result is a residential incubator brimming with some of the sharpest students on campus, working in small groups on issues that excite them. In addition to addressing malaria in Guyana, Cobb Hall teams published a literary magazine and an interdisciplinary online journal, produced a photo documentary of campus life and a film about homelessness in Chapel Hill. Others staged an original play celebrating cultural diversity and a dance festival to raise funds for AIDS treatment. Students also sponsored a series of guest lectures on hot topics and organized conferences on the challenges confronting Hispanic immigrants. Because students lived together they could meet informally any time to discuss and develop their projects.

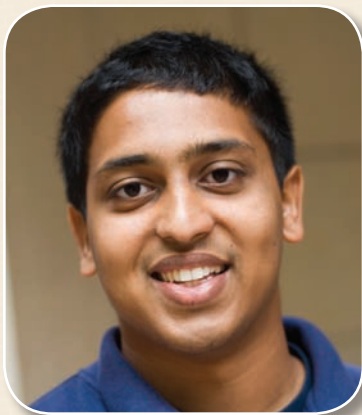
"These are hard-working, creative students with the ability to dream big and get things done," said Randi Davenport, executive director of the Johnston Center. "They worked in teams and every member of each team was critically important to the success of the project."

The idea for a collaborative program involving academic affairs and residential housing originated with Christopher Payne, associate vice chancellor for student affairs.

He called on James Leloudis, associate dean of honors and director of the Johnston Center. Together with Davenport and Joe Boehman, assistant director of Housing and Residential Education, they came up with the concept for the Connected Learning Program in Cobb Hall.

"One of the missions of the Johnston Center is to provide a setting in which students and faculty forge communities of common interest and offer programs

continued



Cobb Hall researchers-in-residence Ivana Vu, Kevin Henderson, Naman Shah, Rezwan Ahmed and Brittany Ballance



Left to Right: Newly renovated Cobb Hall (left) served as home base for the Malaria Project team (right), who could be found discussing their project any time, such as during this walk in the woods across the street.

that reach across disciplinary boundaries, linking the classroom to other learning communities,” Payne explained. “Similarly the mission of Housing and Residential Education is to provide campus housing communities that augment and extend learning that occurs in the classroom. With so much in common, it was a natural partnership between Student Affairs and the College of Arts and Sciences to develop an innovative residential learning program that advances two top priorities of the University’s academic plan: interdisciplinary and experiential learning.”

Cobb Hall houses about 380 students, including the 60 who participate in the Connected Learning Program. The program’s students live on the hall’s first floor, most of them with a roommate who is part of the program but not necessarily working on the same project.

The program has six staff members based in Cobb who offer their support, including a doctoral student who serves as program coordinator, an assistant director for residential learning, a community director and community coordinator and two resident advisers.

Cobb students who served as project mentors participated in the Carolina Leadership and Development Peer-to-Peer Mentoring Program, where students taught each other how to be effective leaders. This year, all students in the Connected Learning Program will join in the leadership program.

Connected Learning Program students do not necessarily receive academic credit for their extra work, though some of them will

parlay their project activities into undergraduate research projects conducted with faculty advisers, as the Guyana team did.

The program is open to all students who are eager for a “self-directed, build-your-own experience,” said Davenport. It provides a great opportunity for new students to immerse themselves immediately in a stimulating project, get to know other students quickly and learn from a savvy upper-class mentor.

“I thought it would be interesting to have students working on malaria from different perspectives. It’s a brilliant idea to integrate housing with a project. It facilitates interactions, getting close with others in a living environment.”

— **Naman Shah**

“It allowed us to jump right in, even as freshmen,” said Ballance, who joined the malaria project team in Cobb as a first-year student. “Ordinarily first-year students don’t do things like this.”

Students who especially enjoy their first year in the program are encouraged to remain in Cobb the following years to work on new projects or mentor incoming students. This year, Vu will lead a project designed to encourage younger students in the sciences.

• **THE MALARIA PROJECT TEAM**

Naman Shah of Cary, who graduated in May with a degree in environmental health sciences from the School of Public Health, had the ideal background to

become a project mentor during his senior year. He was passionate about malaria research, had worked on drug treatments with epidemiology professor Steven Meshnick, and was comfortable living and working in developing nations. He had lived in India and conducted research in Bolivia and Cambodia.

He also understood the importance of service. He had been involved in the Hunger Lunch program sponsored through Nourish International, a Campus Y committee that raised funds for nutritional programs and sustainable development at home and abroad.

Most important, Shah loved the idea of living and learning with other students from different disciplines.

“I thought it would be interesting to have students working on malaria from different perspectives,” he said. “It’s a brilliant idea to integrate housing with a project. It facilitates interactions, getting close with others in a living environment.”

Shah’s intensity and idealism attracted other students to join his project. Signing on were: Henderson ’06, a chemistry major from Cary who had been Shah’s roommate before Cobb; Ahmed, a senior from Flatwoods, Ky., majoring in biology and psychology; and Ballance and Vu, then incoming first-year students from Fremont and Gastonia, N.C. respectively, who were intrigued by the possibilities of living and working with other students. Vu is interested in biology, environmental science and photography, and Balance likes biology and medicine.

The challenges began as soon as students arrived on campus for the academic year: Extensive renovations to Cobb Hall were not complete so they had to live at first in the new student family apartments off Mason Farm Road. Undaunted, they moved into temporary quarters, began meeting together and making plans for project activities. When

sought to raise awareness on campus about the global malaria problem. He also sought “an immersion experience” abroad with other students, and he hoped to participate in a project that would directly help a malaria-stricken community.

Henderson, Ahmed, Vu and Ballance brought diverse interests and skills to enhance Shah’s original concept.

• CHRISTMAS IN GUYANA

On Dec. 18, Shah, Ahmed, Henderson and Vu set off for Georgetown, Guyana. On arrival, they ended up sharing a cheap un-air-conditioned room. It wasn’t easy negotiating personal space in cramped quarters smaller than the worst dorm space back on campus. Let’s just say that two of them are neat-niks and two are not.

“It was sometimes frustrating getting some privacy,” said Ahmed. “But it was not a major problem. Sometimes arguments arose and we had to calm people down.”

Because they were already close since they had lived in the same residential hall, it wasn’t too difficult to talk through these issues, he said.

Vu, the only female on the Guyana trip, agreed. “It was

quite an experience,” she said of sharing a small space with three peers. “We all got so close, it’s like I know them better than they know themselves. I learn the most when I’m taken out of my comfort zone, so it was good.”

Except for Shah, none of them had been on their own before in a developing country. It wasn’t long before they discovered that their timing was flawed — most government offices were closed for Christmas holidays during the first two weeks of their stay. So the students had to be persistent in tracking down officials.

“We had to be really, really patient,” said Henderson. “We kept calling and finally made a connection through the Red Cross. Most of our work was actually carried out during the last week. Now I have a much better perspective about how things work abroad.”

Another challenge came on Christmas Day. They had been living on cheap groceries and take-out food. But all the stores and restaurants were closed on

continued



Left to Right: *Learning around the clock: Cobb Hall features a multimedia room (at left), large and small meeting spaces, and quiet places to play music (at right).*

Cobb Hall renovations were completed in November, they were delighted to move in and take advantage of their comfortable new digs and the spacious meeting rooms.

Each student contributed special talents to the Guyana project. Shah knew from his research work that malaria, spread by infected mosquitoes, is one of the world’s most destructive tropical diseases, resulting in 300–500 million cases and 2–to–3 million deaths around the world each year. He also understood that many malaria strains had developed resistance to the most common drug treatments.

It was Shah’s idea to work in Guyana, which has one of the highest rates of malaria infection in the world (more than 260 people infected per 1,000 population). His goal was to help train healthcare workers to test patients’ blood for the genetic marker associated with drug resistance. If researchers could understand how prevalent the drug-resistance is, they might develop better treatment policies and prevent unnecessary illness and deaths.

Shah wanted to do even more. He

Henderson and Ahmed learned that about half the population of Guyana is affected by anemia, which is exacerbated by the prevalence of malaria and poverty. They knew the Ministry of Health had a program to distribute iron supplements to anemic and at-risk patients, but health officials needed updated educational materials to help the public understand the connection between diet, nutrition and anemia. The two students teamed up to develop materials for a public education campaign to prevent and treat anemia in Guyana.

Vu decided to use her photography and interviewing skills to produce a photo documentary about one Guyana family’s experience with the disease.

Ballance, who was not able to travel to Guyana due to an illness in her family, focused on doing research for the project and conducting educational programs on campus. She oversaw an educational presentation in the fall featuring Jesse Kwiek, an epidemiologist in the School of Public Health, who had contracted malaria while in the Peace Corps in Malawi.



Left to Right: Ivana Vu spent several days sharing this home in Guyana, left, with this family, right, learning how they were affected by malaria personally and economically.

Christmas. The only thing they could find was a vending machine in a gas station. Their holiday dinner consisted of crackers, canned corn and some kind of milk supplement.

They persevered. By the end of their stay in Guyana, Henderson and Ahmed had made the official contacts they needed to begin developing educational materials.

Shah had laid the foundation for a field study to test patients' blood for drug-resistance markers by meeting with concerned officials at the Ministry of Health and Georgetown referral hospitals. Also, at Shah's request, UNC's Nourish International program had donated 12,000 hemoglobin testing kits for anemia detection in maternal and child health clinics, the AIDS programs and the nutritional program in Guyana. He wrote a training manual and trained 30 physician assistants and 30 public health nursing staff in the use of this blood testing process.

And Vu had spent several days in a rural dwelling, photographing a family and recording stories about how malaria had affected them personally and economically.

"I met the mother at the Georgetown Hospital, where she was waiting for her husband to be tested for malaria," Vu said. "She had already lost her previous husband to malaria and experienced the disease herself about 10 years ago. Her five kids are healthy and four of them (even the 7-year-old) work 12 hours a day. They welcomed me to their home, which was smaller than our hotel room. There was no electricity, phone, running water or bathroom, just a

bucket of water and an outhouse."

The Cobb team returned home ready to complete and present their projects. Each of them presented their findings at the Undergraduate Research Symposium in April, an annual public event for all student researchers held by the Office of Undergraduate Research.

• LESSONS LEARNED

Through their experience abroad, the students learned about much more than malaria. "We learned how to work with a foreign government and how to work with each other," said Shah.

"I love the concept, the opportunity to have resources for a project like this. We designed it ourselves. It's also interesting meeting others in the hall who are studying and doing so many other interesting projects. This was the best housing experience of my whole undergraduate career here." — Kevin Henderson

"I had never been abroad by myself," said Ahmed, who was born in Bangladesh and moved to the United States when he was 3. "I learned the whole process of how to overcome all of the obstacles. We had high expectations and didn't take into account the holidays, the culture, the atmosphere. But in the end, we did what we wanted to accomplish.

"We got to go to a place where we had never even thought of going before," he added. "Four distinct personalities were brought together in pursuit of a common

goal, and we all faced some obstacles, but at the same time we were not overwhelmed by them."

Vu said she learned things that she would not have been exposed to in class. "I learned so much — bargaining with sellers at the fruit market, chatting with miners at the malaria clinic, eating street food, living in a two-person, non-air-conditioned hotel room with three other people, finding my way to a small

village and getting lost there. I learned so much about myself. I had no idea that I could do these things."

Henderson especially appreciated the opportunity to design and carry out a project of this magnitude from start to finish, and to live on campus with other students who are also involved in self-directed projects.

"I love the concept, the opportunity to have resources for a project like this," he said. "We designed it ourselves. It's also interesting meeting others in the hall who are studying and doing so many other interesting projects. This was the best housing experience of my whole undergraduate career here."

Davenport, the Johnston Center's executive director, said the malaria project was a great example of the overall success of the Connected Learning Program in its first year.

"All of the projects were fully realized and some, like the malaria project, went beyond their and our expectations for them," she said.

"These were ambitious, exciting, dynamic, extraordinary projects for undergraduates — most of them first-year students — to undertake. They were exposed to all kinds of ways to accomplish great things on campus and off campus. It was exciting to watch their projects develop and see what students were capable of tackling with the right mentorships, support and resources." •

Learn more about the program online at www.johnstoncenter.unc.edu/dp/.

JEWISH STUDIES SOARS

Carolina students and the public are eager to understand the Jewish experience

BY PAMELA BABCOCK

As a generation of Carolina students comes of age during major conflicts in the Middle East, many are turning to Jewish Studies to help understand the history, politics and culture that have shaped the volatile region.

Students also are studying myriad other aspects of the Jewish experience: One class traces the history of Jewish Southerners, and nearly 50 students are learning modern Hebrew.

Classes and lectures about the history of the Holocaust, taught by Christopher Browning, the Frank Porter Graham Distinguished Professor of History at UNC, have typically been over-enrolled. Browning is at the National Humanities Center this year.

The Carolina Center for Jewish Studies was founded in 2003 to study Jewish history and culture. Since then, enrollment in Jewish studies courses has climbed. The program has received substantial gifts, and a lecture series and statewide outreach program attract growing numbers.

"The center is part and parcel of liberal arts education at Carolina," said founding director Jonathan M. Hess, the Moses M. and Hannah L. Malkin Distinguished Professor in Jewish History and Culture.

"We have more than 1,200 students taking Jewish studies classes, and most importantly, they are all from all different backgrounds."

Jewish studies isn't new at Carolina, since such classes were first taught in the 1940s. But in the last decade, several prominent faculty hires created a turning point that sparked the interdisciplinary center's creation. Today the program draws on the research and teaching strengths of nine faculty members in political science, American studies, religious studies, history, English,

Germanic languages and literatures, and Slavic languages and literatures.

"All of a sudden there was a new concentration of faculty across campus interested in Jewish studies," said Hess, who also is a professor in the department of Germanic languages and literatures. "And there was a growing interest from students."

MOMENTUM BUILDING

The center offers a minor in Jewish studies and courses through a variety of departments.

The Middle East crisis has sparked interest among Jewish students with strong ties to Israel and non-Jewish students with equally strong ties to the Biblical region, said Marcie Cohen Ferris, associate director of the center and an assistant professor in American studies.

"I think people are drawn to Jewish studies because they're interested in what's happening in the world and how it has changed deeply historic places," Ferris said.

Ferris teaches "Mamas and Matriarchs: A Social History of Jewish Women in America" and "Shalom Y'all: The Jewish Experience in the American South." She said exploring Jewish life in the South is one of the program's unique advantages.

"We are certainly one of the largest public universities in the South to offer a Jewish studies program," Ferris said. "And because we are known for the study of the South at UNC, that's a particularly good partnership."

The center offers about 30 courses and hopes eventually to have an academic major, Hess said.

A SIGNIFICANT BOOST

Recently, the center has received significant private support. In 2006 came the largest to date: a \$1 million gift from Leonard and Tobee Kaplan of Greensboro

continued

RIGHT: A love letter from Joseph Ehrlich, a drygoods merchant in Milledgeville, Ga., to Rebecca Smolensky, Jan. 1, 1896; they were married the following year.

From the Ehrlich and Rabhan Family Papers #5129, Southern Historical Collection, Wilson Library, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

to fund the Leonard and Tobee Kaplan Distinguished Professorship, an endowed chair in the College of Arts and Sciences.

"After reviewing the various areas, we felt there was one where a contribution would lend something new and different," said Leonard Kaplan, a 1949 Carolina alumnus who runs the Greensboro-based Toleo Foundation with his wife, Tobee. "Ours is focused on modern Judaism — its religious practices and moral issues in the world."

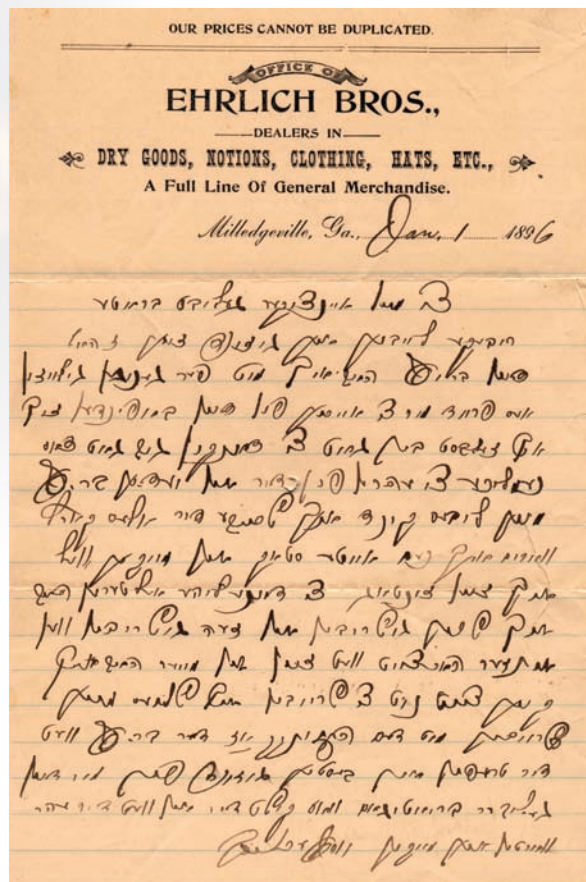
"It will allow us to get a faculty star," Hess said of the endowment. "When we make that hire, it will really put the program on the map nationally and internationally."

Several other professorships have also been created. Moses and Hannah Malkin, 1941 UNC graduates from Sun City, Fla., gave funds to establish the distinguished professorship recently awarded to Hess.

And the JMA and Sonja van der Horst Distinguished Professorship in Jewish Studies was established this year by the family in memory of their parents. Their gift is made possible by Sonja's careful investment of Holocaust reparations funds. Sonja had fled Poland as a teen after her parents and sister were killed by the Nazis. She decided to use the funds to endow the professorship shortly before she died in March.

Two of the couple's children have Carolina connections: Charles van der Horst, a professor of medicine at UNC; and alumna Jacqueline van der Horst Sergent '82 MPH.

"These gifts represent great generosity and a real sense of vision for both UNC and the people who have given them," said Ferris. "They are making an investment in the future of both Jewish and non-Jewish students. It's really an investment in helping people understand each other."



LECTURE SERIES POPULAR

In 2004, with initial funding from the Charles H. Revson Foundation in honor of Eli N. Evans '58, the center created the North Carolina Jewish Studies Lecture Series. Through this outreach program, center faculty lecture at Jewish and non-Jewish institutions, as well as to secular and interfaith groups. They've traveled to Charlotte, Greensboro and Wilmington, and to smaller communities such as Asheville, Goldsboro and Fayetteville.

The center also has a public lecture series that brings in world-renowned scholars to UNC to speak about Jewish life and also features film screenings. Each year, more than 2,000 students, faculty members and others attend. The public lecture series relies on funding from Revson and other donors.

"The really exciting thing is the people who come from outside the campus," Hess said. "It exemplifies the outreach mission of the University."

More than 350 people turned out last spring at UNC to hear Deborah E. Lipstadt, Dorot Professor of Modern Jewish and Holocaust Studies at Emory

University, discuss her book and successful libel trial against David Irving, once considered the world's leading Holocaust denier.

Last year's outreach presentation on Jews in Cuba by Rosa Perelmutter, an associate professor of Spanish and adviser in the College of Arts and Sciences, drew a standing room only crowd in Charlotte, Ferris said.

"These talks have been really important for providing education across the state and a link to the University as we offer the newest and best scholarship," Ferris added. "And for the scholars who give these talks through our outreach program, it's personally rewarding."

LOOKING AHEAD

For the upcoming academic year, Hess is on research leave to work on a book about 19th

century German-Jewish popular culture. Jeff Spinner-Halev, Kenan Eminent Professor of Political Ethics, is the center's interim director.

While Carolina's Center for Jewish Studies may be relatively new compared to programs formalized decades ago at other major public institutions, Carolina scholars say the future looks bright.

"With the momentum we've developed in the last three years, I don't know of other newer Jewish studies programs that are growing so quickly with so many new faculty positions in such a short period," Hess said.

Ferris said the center, and a growing campus Hillel program, have created a synergy. "Suddenly, there is an active Jewish life on campus intellectually, socially and spiritually," she said.

Given response from students, faculty, alumni and administrators, Ferris predicts UNC's Jewish studies program will become one of the nation's top programs in the next decade.

"There is excellence there, and those partnerships between students, alumni, the administration and the faculty are really what makes it work," she said. •



Jim Haberman

Jodi Magness in Yotvata

DIGGING IT

Archaeologist Jodi Magness is a leading expert on ancient Palestine

BY JB SHELTON

The Yotvata dig is literally a work-in-progress, during which Magness and her students explored, confirmed and expanded upon the results of previous excavations — even as the conflict between Israel and Lebanon heated up while they were completing their work there this summer.

This devilishly hot excavation — one of more than 20 research locations in Israel and Greece Magness has experienced — took place on the site of a Roman fort dating to ca. 300 A.D. It is far enough from today's battles for Magness and her students to continue working safely at the site, but they heeded the State Department warning not to explore further afield in Israel.

Yotvata is the modern name of an oasis with saline marshes in Israel's southern Arava (rift valley), located 25 miles north of Eilat and Aqaba on the Red Sea. A stone police station of the British Mandatory period sits atop the fort's remains.

In the 1970s, Zeev Meshel of Tel Aviv University conducted limited excavations at Yotvata and found the original 4th century A.D. occupation level of the fort. In the mid-1980s, the chance discovery of a Latin inscription originally set above the main gate revealed that Priscus, who was probably a governor of the Syria-Palestina province, built the fort as part of the reorganization of the Roman empire's eastern frontier defenses.

"Our excavations have revealed a more complex occupational sequence than that suggested by professor Meshel. We have good evidence for an early Islamic reoccupation — 7th to early 8th centuries — as well as a series of Roman phases," Magness said.

Field studies will come to fruition in 2007, the fifth year of her commitment to excavating the site. Magness has planned a research leave in 2007-08 and intends to write a final report with the site co-director, Gwyn Davies of Florida International University.

As an expert on ancient Palestinian archaeology, Magness is particularly insightful about the site of Qumran, which yielded over 900 parchments and fragments constituting

the oldest preserved copies of the Hebrew Bible and related works, which are known as the Dead Sea Scrolls. Her research covers Palestine (modern Israel, Jordan and the Palestinian territories) in the Roman, Byzantine and early Islamic periods, including ancient pottery and synagogues, Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls, and the Roman Army in the East.

Her book, *Archaeology of Qumran and the Dead Sea Scrolls* was selected as an Outstanding Academic Book for 2003 by *Choice* magazine and won the 2003 Biblical Archaeology Society's Award for Best Popular Book in Archaeology. She also was honored with the coveted 2006 Irene Levi-Sala Book Prize in nonfiction for *The Archaeology of the Early Islamic Settlement in Palestine*.

She has shared her ability to transform ancient history into modern day intrigue with graduate and undergraduate students as well as with national television audiences for *National Geographic's* "Life of Jesus" Science of the Bible series and the History Channel's *Battlefield Detectives'* "Siege of Masada."

Before coming to Carolina in fall 2002, Magness was associate professor of classics and art history at Tufts University and director of the Archaeology Program. She earned a bachelor's degree in archaeology and history from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem in 1977 and a doctorate in classical archaeology from the University of Pennsylvania in 1989.

At age 14, her ninth-grade yearbook photo caption read — "Career Goal: Archaeologist." Magness has maintained her youthful focus with a passion.

"Archaeology is my career and my life," she said. "What I do is the most interesting thing in the world. I work all the time, and I love every minute." •

The Kenan professorship is one of four distinguished chairs established in 1995 at the suggestion of the late Frank H. Kenan, a 1935 Carolina graduate, to help the University recruit and recognize scholars who excel in both research and undergraduate teaching. The family's William R. Kenan Jr. Charitable Trust funded the professorships.

Jodi Magness is an adventuress and author, archaeologist and scholar, researcher and raconteur. She also is (pun intended) down to earth.

Just ask her students.

"On digs, in the pre-dawn desert, Jodi's energy is infectious and inspiring. Her knowledge seems endless, and thanks to her informative lectures, I find myself intentionally bringing up ancient pottery trends in daily conversation," said Thomas Hopper, a member of the students' excavation team for the Israel Archaeology Summer Field School in Yotvata, directed by Magness in June 2006.

Magness, the Kenan Distinguished Professor for Teaching Excellence in Early Judaism at UNC, began her involvement with the Yotvata site with a tempting invitation from an Israeli colleague who shares her fascination with the Roman army, one of her research interests.

Bart Ehrman, professor and chair of the religious studies department, wrote in an award nomination letter that Magness is "everywhere recognized as one of the top archaeologists of Palestine in the world today."

"The realm of her research as a field archaeologist ranges from technical areas such as ceramic analysis to issues of the social, political and cultural history of Palestine through the troubled centuries beginning with the destruction of the Temple in the 6th century B.C. through the early Byzantine period."



PETER FILENE (left) and JOE LOWMAN share a laugh — and a love of teaching

TERRIFIC TEACHERS

By Kim Weaver Spurr '88

Many Carolina professors excel at both teaching and research.

Joe Lowman and Peter Filene have honed their teaching to a fine art and have used their research and writing skills to help others understand what works — in and out of the classroom. They each have been on the UNC faculty for more than 35 years, have been tapped to teach first-year seminars and have won the University's most coveted teaching awards. As master conductors in the classroom, they share a passion for perfecting their craft, a zeal for learning and an unadulterated love for teaching.



JOE LOWMAN

Psychology professor Joe Lowman had no intention of becoming a teacher. In fact, the Boone, N.C. native almost missed his calling.

In 1970, during his last year in graduate school at Carolina, Lowman spoke to a class at Durham's Jordan High School. The teacher asked him where he'd be teaching next year, to which Lowman replied, "Me a teacher? No way. I'm moving to Colorado to be a family therapist."

The teacher replied, "Joe, if you do that, you'll be missing your gift. I can't imagine you not being a teacher."

It turns out that the position Lowman agreed to take in Colorado was eliminated by the state legislature. Stuck with no job, he took a post as a clinical supervisor at UNC that also involved part-

time teaching. A half-hour after finishing the oral defense of his dissertation, with the "ink not yet dry on his diploma," Lowman walked into his first class at Carolina.

That was 36 years ago. And he's still here.

Lowman has made effective teaching his primary area of scholarship. He's taught everything from a graduate course on college teaching to undergraduate classes in evolutionary psychology, advanced personality theory and abnormal psychology.

Lowman practices what he preaches. His CV is chock-full of most of the major teaching awards given at Carolina, including the 2006 Board of Governors (BOG) Award for Excellence in Teaching. He has won a Tanner Award and been a Bowman and Gordon Gray professor, an endowed chair awarded to the University's best undergraduate teachers for five-year terms. Senior psychology majors have given him their teaching award five times.

But winning awards isn't what it's all about for Lowman.

"I'm not invested in my teaching so I can win teaching awards," said Lowman, who on this day has finished grading 16 of 45 essay exams for one of his spring classes. "That's not what it's about for me." Lowman admits he gets a little depressed at the end of every semester; he knows he will miss "the pure pleasure of talking about psychology with my students."

In 1984, Lowman wrote a seminal book, *Mastering the Techniques of Teaching*. It was updated in 1995, and the publisher is trying to get him to write a third edition. Translated into Portuguese, Chinese, Japanese and Arabic, it was a book that changed his career. It was written at a time, Lowman acknowledges, when there was a renewed national interest in improving the quality of college instruction. In the last 20 years, he's given more than 200 presentations on college teaching to faculty in the United States, Canada and Brazil. He's written numerous articles and book chapters on strategies for effective teaching.

In his book, Lowman offers a two-dimensional model of exemplary college teaching, one that focuses on both the instructor's ability to stimulate intellectual excitement in the classroom and his ability to establish motivating interpersonal rapport with his students.

Judging from comments from his students, Lowman excels at both dimensions. He says it's been 20 years since he's used the designation "Dr." Many of his students call him by his first name. And he takes the time, even in large lecture classes, to learn theirs.

It may help that he's also an accomplished Appalachian storyteller. He has told folk tales all over North Carolina and in Russia, Hungary, Brazil and at the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesboro, Tenn. He even made his own rocking chair out of "a quarter round of red oak, thirty days off the stump" that he sometimes uses when telling stories.

His storyteller business card reads: "Entertainment Guaranteed."

"I can remember many instances in which Dr. Lowman has jumped, skipped and laughed to the amazement of his students (all in good humor I might add)," said senior history major Justin Manusov. "Not only can he speak at length about anything in psychology, he often finds ways to relate the subject matter to literature, history or biographical information. In a sense, he seems to have a great knowledge about everything."

Lowman, a self-proclaimed "student of the human condition," says it's easy to maintain his enthusiasm for teaching because he's totally captivated by his subject.

"I'm a student every day. I'm learning, thinking and critically evaluating every idea I run into," he said. "I'm always learning new things and thinking about old things in new ways. I try to connect everything I talk about in psychology to literature, economics and the other sciences. I'm totally fascinated by young people, by what they're going through at ages 18-22. To me, being engaged in everything is what education is all about. It's not living in a silo."

Indeed, one afternoon while passing out graded essay exams

continued



to his advanced personality class, Lowman tells students, “You always teach me stuff in your papers, and my job is to continue to learn.”

He’s currently reading a series of novels about Botswana called *The No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency*. In summer 2007, Lowman is planning a six-week Burch seminar in Botswana on evolutionary personality. As part of their time in Africa, students will spend about a week with the San Bushmen.

Students say Lowman seems to genuinely care whether or not they learn the material — and that his lectures always seem fresh, never re-hashed.

“He is always energetic, engaging and empowering,” said freshman business and Spanish major John Houston. “He prompts his students to look beyond the mere words on the page and stretch their minds.”

Lowman’s love of teaching extends to the work he does with graduate students. Karen Gil, chair of the psychology department, has known Lowman for 11 years. He was instrumental in setting up a mentoring program for graduate teaching assistants, “motivating them to put energy into their teaching,” she said.

Gil calls Lowman a “great departmental citizen” as well — someone who has taken on a myriad of roles in the psychology department, from serving as an undergraduate adviser and assistant dean in the academic advising office to being on the undergraduate studies committee. He’s served on the undergraduate studies committee since 1979, “probably the longest term of service of any faculty member on any psychology department committee,” Gil said.

Lowman has plenty of interests that keep him busy outside the classroom, but he is most passionate about the tuba.

He started playing the tuba again in 1994 after a 34-year lapse, having been issued a “beat-up, old corroded sousaphone” in seventh grade that he brought back to life with silver polish. In 1995, Lowman auditioned for and became a “freshman” member of the Marching Tar Heels, UNC’s marching band, during which time he became known fondly as “Dr. Joe.” Lowman no longer

marches with the Tar Heels; today, he plays with the Triangle Tuba Quartet and Chapel Hill’s Village Band.

He has performed with various choral groups as a bass/baritone, including the Carolina Blue Barbershop Quartet and the Triangle Opera Theater, where he sang in the chorus of “La Traviata.” He’s taking voice lessons. He loves backpacking, snow skiing and riding his bicycle to campus. He wants to take a blacksmithing course someday soon.

Sure, he could retire and devote all his time to those interests, but not while teaching is still so much fun.

Lowman likes to share these words from former Wesley Foundation campus minister Manuel Workman, who would tell students: “My job is to help you grow up. Your job is to keep me from growing old.”

“In that sense,” Lowman added, “it’s easy after 36 years to still find this fun. The students keep you looking ahead to your life, not looking back on it.”

PETER FILENE

An awards committee once called history professor Peter Filene a “meta-teacher” for his role in teaching graduate students how to teach. Peter Coclanis, former history department chairman, adds his own accolades. He calls his colleague “the Platonic ideal of an undergraduate teacher” and, knowing Filene’s love of baseball, “the Cal Ripken of historical pedagogy.”

Still, after awhile, you simply run out of adjectives to describe him, said Coclanis, the University’s associate provost for international affairs. He has known Filene for 22 years.

“One of the things that I think has marked Peter Filene as a great teacher is the fact that he doesn’t have any preconceived notions or a cookie-cutter mentality about how one can become a good teacher,” Coclanis said. “He’s constantly looking to recharge and retool his classes.”

Coclanis said when many teachers might be dreading the start of a new semester, Filene would say things like: “I can’t sleep because school is about to start, and I get to meet new students.”

Filene, who’s been teaching at Carolina for 39 years, has kept registers of his classes, what amounts now to a huge ream of paper, from the very beginning. He’s spent much of his teaching career here. Once the piles of paper started growing, Filene said he began to feel that if he got rid of them, it would be like giving away family photos.

“Every now and then I have to look up somebody, and suddenly, there are a bunch of names that take me back to a class or conversation I had long ago forgotten,” he said.

Try to list the teaching awards Filene has won at UNC, and it may take a lot of paper. He’s on his second Bowman and Gordon Gray professorship. He’s won the Tanner award — twice — and he was given the Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2002.

Filene grew up in Manhattan. In 11th grade, while walking in his neighborhood one evening, he had one of those “ah ha”

moments when he knew he wanted to be a teacher. At the time, he wasn't thinking specifically about college teaching, or even history, but he knew he wanted to pass on his own excitement about learning.

After receiving his Ph.D. from Harvard and teaching briefly at Lincoln University of Missouri, he applied for a post in UNC's history department in 1967. He'd never before been South.

"I came from the airport in St. Louis when it was about 12 degrees in late January, and here it was, one of those 65 degree days in Chapel Hill," Filene said. "I thought, 'Well, let's try it for a couple years.' I kept reading *The New York Times*, thinking that was my hometown paper, but pretty soon, it became clear that this was a good place. And I haven't regretted it ever."

Filene teaches and writes primarily on 20th century American history, with a particular interest in gender, mass media and popular culture. He has taught a number of U.S. history courses, a graduate seminar on pedagogy and undergraduate seminars on "Photography and Modern American Culture" and "Biography as History."

In 2005, Filene wrote a book, an ode to his profession, called *The Joy of Teaching*. He tackles everything from syllabus writing and lecture planning to class discussions, grading and teacher-student interactions outside the classroom. He enjoys putting on his diagnostic hat, he said, and helping graduate students to explore what's going on in their classrooms. For 29 years, as head of the history department's committee on teaching, he conducted a training workshop every fall for teaching assistants.

"One of my teaching assistants introduced a Hollywood film into one of my classes, something that reflected the politics or culture of the time. After one of the discussions, she said, 'Why weren't the students more responsive?' I said, 'You know, I think you should ask the questions not after the film, but before the film, so students know what to look for.' The next time she did that, it was magic," Filene said.

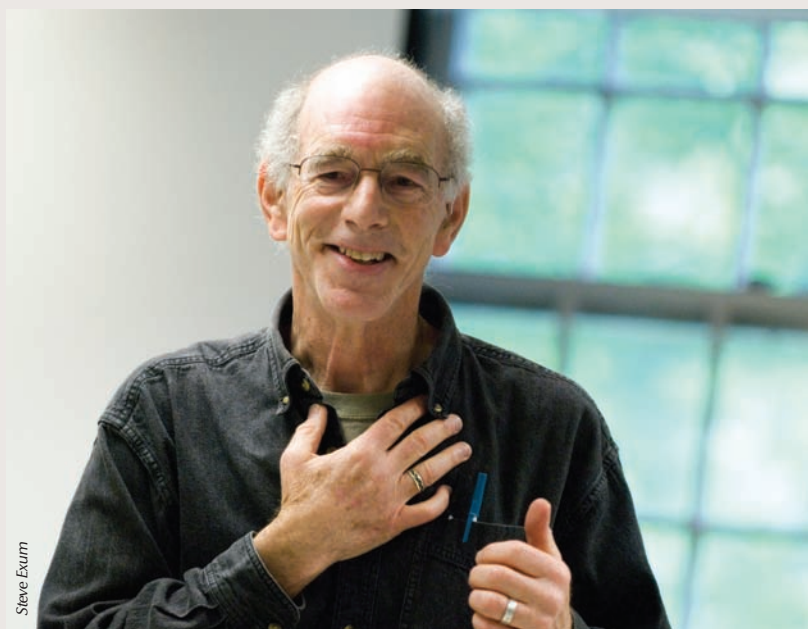
But how does he maintain his own joy for the job?

"There are new students every year. I keep reminding myself, like some actor on Broadway, that it's the same script, but it's a new audience," Filene said. "And then I try to change the script." For instance, he's re-examining a course on United States history since the Civil War that he's taught "for the umpteenth time," and planning to make some changes for the fall. Students like variety, he said, just like "we don't want grilled cheese sandwiches for every meal."

Senior history major Jacob Karabell calls Filene "the most approachable professor that he has had at Carolina," someone who values students' opinions.

"Many older teachers that I've taken courses from have clearly taught their courses for a long time, incorporating few changes ... This could never happen with Professor Filene; he just likes teaching too much to permit any stagnation," Karabell said. "Though he is obviously a brilliant historian, he never comes off as didactic or superior. He always asked us for ways we thought the course could run better — and he actually employed our ideas."

Borrowing a metaphor from the University's Center for Teaching and Learning, Filene says teaching should not be like pitching a baseball toward a student in the batter's box to see if he or she hits it or strikes out. Ideally, teaching is like a game of



Steve Exum

PETER FILENE says teaching is like Frisbee

Frisbee, where a teacher invites students to catch an idea — and then pass it on.

"The Frisbee succeeds only as long as the Frisbee is in the air. If you throw it past somebody, or at somebody who drops it, then you've lost. So, we all need to work together to keep the Frisbee in the air," Filene said.

Mildred Long caught that "Frisbee" more than 10 years ago when she was taking Filene's history of photography class. Now she's pursuing a master's degree in studio art at UNC, with a concentration in photography.

"He opened my eyes to the world of photography and showed me images that would, years later, influence my own path in life and decision to pursue photography more seriously," Long said.

Filene became interested in photography in the early '70s when he got a grant to put together a multimedia show on the Great Depression. It's one of his many hobbies. He enjoys experimenting with abstract photography using double exposures and has had an art show at the Durham Arts Council. He's written a novel, *Home and Away*, a coming-of-age story set in New York City against the backdrop of the anti-Communist hysteria of 1951. He's had short stories published in literary magazines and is working on a second novel. He loves commuting to work on his bicycle.

"Diversity is helpful, both physical and mental," Filene said. "It's like a well-rounded diet for the self."

He'll have plenty to keep him busy when he decides to retire. It's something he's thought about, starting that next chapter of his life — but he'd like to teach at least one more year.

"I will probably have much regret about it when school opens, but nonetheless, I think everything has to come to an end sometime, even something I love," Filene said.

Coclanis, the associate provost, says when Filene does retire, it will be "a real loss to the whole department, the whole University."

"Not only does he have a passion for teaching, he has talent. ... Peter Filene is in another league from most people." •

FedEx gives \$5 million for Global Education Center

FedEx Corp. has committed \$5 million to support and name the new global education building that will open on campus this spring, bringing major international activities under one roof and advancing a top academic priority of the University and the College of Arts and Sciences.

Construction began in November 2004 for the facility, which will create a vibrant hub of international studies, research, teaching, public service and cultural exchange. The new building is adjacent to the Carolina Inn at the intersection of McCauley and Pittsboro streets.

The FedEx Global Education Center will for the first time house in one place all international and area studies programs for the College, including: the Office of Study Abroad, the African Studies Center, the Curriculum in International and Area Studies, Carolina Asia Center, Carolina Center for the Study of the Middle East and Muslim Civilizations, Center for Slavic, Eurasian and East European Studies, Center for European Studies and the Institute of Latin American Studies.

The new facility will also house the University's national resource center for international studies and an office for international student and scholar services. Additionally, the College and the Associate Provost for International Affairs will launch a collaborative Global Research Institute that will provide faculty and students an opportunity to interact and study with distinguished scholars from around the world who are engaged in seminal international research.

The FedEx Global Education Center was designed by award-winning architect Andrea Leers of Leers Weinzapfel, a

Boston-based firm that has garnered an international reputation for beautiful and innovative designs.

"This state-of-the-art structure will encourage faculty, students and visitors from diverse disciplines and regional interests to come together to expand their knowledge of the world and their understanding of other cultures and nations," said Madeline G. Levine, interim dean of the College and Kenan Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures. "The FedEx gift to the University advances our commitment to provide an international education to our students as preparation for their roles as citizens and future leaders in an increasingly global society."

"The building directly aligns with our interests in advancing education and academic programs in the international arena and will help the University in its efforts to enhance North Carolina's ability to thrive in a global economy."

— Frederick W. Smith, FedEx chairman

Frederick W. Smith, FedEx chairman, president and chief executive officer, said, "The building directly aligns with our interests in advancing education and academic programs in the international arena and will help the University in its efforts to enhance North Carolina's ability to thrive in a global economy."

"This gift is part of a broader

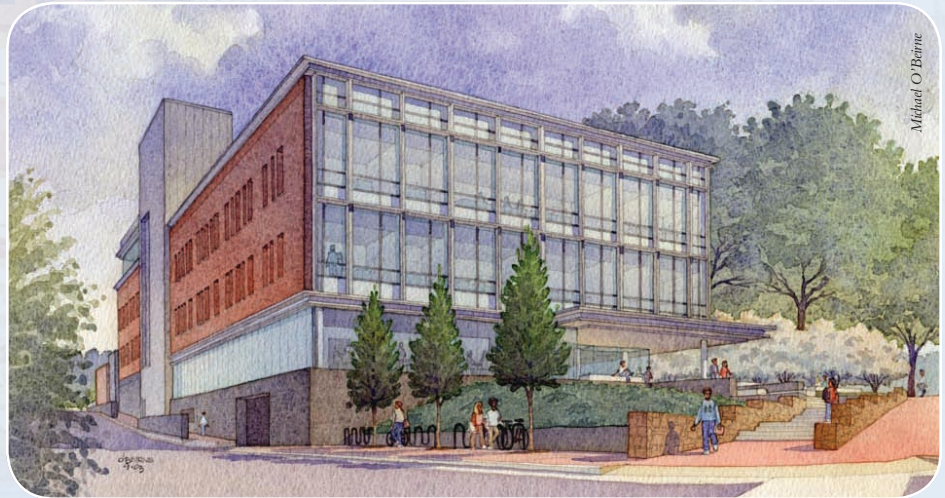
commitment by FedEx to North Carolina, its people and its economy," Smith added.

FedEx operates in more than 200 countries and territories and is planning to build a company hub in Greensboro, representing a major investment in North Carolina.

The launching of the Global Education Center will help promote a series of special events throughout 2007 that will emphasize the University's and the College's increasing focus on internationalization.

Carolina leads all public research universities for the rate of students going abroad — 36.7 percent of UNC undergraduates study in other countries before they graduate. With the College's acquisition last year of the European Study Center in Winston House in London, the University acquired its first academic property overseas. Other initiatives include collaborations with the National University of Singapore (NUS). The College and NUS are developing a new international joint-undergraduate degree program that is believed to be among the first of its kind among major public research universities.

The N.C. Higher Education Bond Referendum, approved in 2000, generated \$22.5 million for the \$39 million building. Private gifts, including the one from FedEx, are expected to total \$7.5 million. •



ABOVE: The FedEx Global Education Center will open this spring.

Michael O'Boyle

HIGHLIGHTS

Student filmmaker documents sisters' "Way Out"

Their father is a pimp and crack dealer. Their mother is a prostitute serving a 40-year prison sentence for murder. They have been surrounded by sex, drugs, poverty, and verbal and physical abuse their entire lives.

Music is the chord that holds the lives of teenagers Angela and Carmen Jones together. The sisters, residents of the Watts district in South Central Los Angeles, sing, write and produce music. But it was UNC student Courtney Garcia, 3,000 miles away in Chapel Hill, who gave them their voice.



Garcia loaned them her camera for two months so they could film their daily lives.

They captured a cell phone

intelligence and talent.

The film includes disturbing scenes captured by Angela and Carmen inside the house they shared with their father and his prostitutes.

conversation involving a social worker who investigated the home, an incident that resulted in their father's eventual arrest.

Garcia showed her film at the International Video Art Festival in Casablanca, Morocco.

The Hendersonville, N.C. native has big dreams for the film. She plans to show it at more festivals and would love to have network TV exposure.

And her hopes for Angela and Carmen? "I hope they get an education. I think an education is the way out for them." •

Music is the chord that holds the lives of teenagers Angela and Carmen Jones together. The sisters, residents of the Watts district in South Central Los Angeles, sing, write and produce music. But it was UNC student Courtney Garcia, 3,000 miles away in Chapel Hill, who gave them their voice.

Garcia graduated in May 2006 with a degree in communication studies and creative writing. She culled 60 hours of videotape of Carmen and Angela's journey into a 40-minute documentary called *The Way Out*, a haunting tale of their five-month struggle to break free from their father.

Garcia had an internship in the summer of 2005 with a Hollywood producer. During her days off, the long-time fan of hip hop music would explore local spots where kids were rapping and singing.

While visiting the nonprofit Subject2Change, Garcia heard Angela and Carmen sing and was intrigued by their

Women who shatter "glass ceiling" can narrow wage gap

Women who break through the "glass ceiling" into top management jobs can help narrow the gender wage gap for nonmanagerial women who work for them, sociologists at UNC and the University of California, Irvine have found.

The new study reveals that the promotion of women into management positions may benefit all women — but only if those female managers reach relatively high-level positions within managerial hierarchies. It is the first large-scale analysis of its type using national data on workers and managers.

Study co-authors Philip N. Cohen of UNC and Matt L. Huffman of UCI presented their findings at the annual meeting of the American Sociological Association in Montreal in August. The study was featured in *The Washington Post*, *The Seattle Times* and by *United Press International*, among other media outlets.

The sociologists analyzed 2000 U.S. Census figures, with a sample size of 1.32 million workers in 29,294 local jobs in 1,318 local industries for the study.

"Female managers do matter, but it's not enough to just have more women in positions of authority," Cohen said. "These results suggest they have to be high enough up in the organization to make a difference for all the women below them. The presence of high-level female managers has a much larger impact: increasing women's wages and decreasing wage inequality by gender."

The study highlights in a new way the significance of the glass ceiling, Cohen said. Previous research has focused on access to managerial jobs. This study examined what happens when women do break through the glass ceiling into upper management.

"Due to the glass ceiling, not only are qualified women potentially blocked from upper-level management positions — but their absence in upper management has ripple effects that potentially shape workplace outcomes for nonmanagerial women as well," Cohen added. •



HIGHLIGHTS

Beirut Dispatch

By Stephanie Preston '08

BEIRUT, July 2006 — From outside, constant bangs crash against a sunny sky. In a country so used to gunshots and war, it is difficult to be sure of the source of the noise.

This time it is fireworks. “They are celebrating killing the Israelis this morning,” says Malek Al Salek, the man I am interviewing for a story on motorcycle-making.

Brushing this information off as something that, as a foreigner, I cannot fully understand, I continue with the interview. It is not until the next morning, from my apartment in Hamra, that it sinks in: foreigner or not — I am involved.

I awake to unmistakable crashes shaking the building. These were not celebratory fireworks. I hurry out of bed to the ninth floor rooftop to find another

resident looking to the south.

Columns of smoke arise from an orange sky. The other resident, Katia Swan, explains that Hariri airport has been bombed. The runways had been targeted the previous morning, but this time they had hit the fuel tanks creating flames visible for miles.

An even louder series of explosions follows and we instinctively grab onto each other, eyes remaining fixed on the destruction in the distance.



Stephanie Preston in Beirut

Over the next few days the bombings become almost commonplace, at times barely warranting acknowledgement.

Over the next few days the bombings become almost commonplace, at times barely warranting acknowledgement. The closer explosions still incite a surprised

flinch, but for the most part people here have become numbed — but numbed only to the *noise* of the explosions. The resulting devastation to the people is impossible to dull out. •

Stephanie Preston, an international studies major from South Salem, N.Y., was nearing the completion of a photojournalism internship at The Daily Star in Beirut, when the conflict between Israel and Lebanon escalated. She kept taking photos of the war's impact until she was safely evacuated to Cyprus on July 22. She is in Xiamen, China this fall studying economics and Chinese.



Joseph Haj

PlayMakers names producing artistic director

Joseph Haj, a Carolina alumnus with extensive theatrical credits, is the new producing

artistic director for PlayMakers Repertory Company, the nonprofit professional theater company based in the department of dramatic art.

The 1988 graduate of UNC's master of fine arts professional actor training program will provide artistic vision and guidance, direct plays, plan programs, select guest

directors and artists, and raise funds for PlayMakers, where he has been a guest director three times. He also will train graduate dramatic art students in acting and technology through the professional theater.

Haj has worked in Berlin, Edinburgh, Paris, Salzburg, Venice and Japan, as well as in regional theaters across the United States. He received a National Endowment for the Arts Millennium Grant, awarded to 50 of America's finest artists in 2000, and the 2004-2005 National Endowment for the Arts/Theatre Communications Group Career Development Grant for Directors.

Other accomplishments include

conducting workshops with Palestinian and Israeli actors in the West Bank and Gaza, directing *Henry V* with maximum-security inmates in California, and creating and directing *Voices* with members of the rural community of Batesburg-Leesville, S.C.

Haj succeeds David Hammond, who has been with PlayMakers for 21 years, the past 14 seasons as artistic director. Hammond will become artistic director emeritus and devote more time to teaching. He also will advise PlayMakers and teach dramatic art at UNC and in the graduate acting program of New York University's Tisch School of the Arts. •

HIGHLIGHTS

Distinguished professorship was a triple surprise

Richard Krasno attended the post-commencement ceremony in May for the curriculum in peace, war and defense in UNC's College of Arts and Sciences because he wanted to help his friends Don and Betsy Dixon celebrate the graduation of their son Peter.

Krasno, executive director of the William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust and president of the four affiliated William R. Kenan, Jr. funds, was pleasantly surprised to hear then Dean Bernadette Gray-Little announce that a new distinguished professorship was being established for the interdisciplinary academic program that explores issues of human conflict, national and global security, and defense.

Krasno understood that endowed chairs are critical for recruiting and keeping

outstanding professors, and he had been instrumental in helping to raise funds for that purpose.

One pleasant surprise led to two others: Gray-Little went on to announce that the Dixons had given a major gift to endow the new faculty chair and it would be named the Richard M. Krasno Distinguished Professorship. The Dixons' gift of \$666,000 will be matched by \$334,000 in funds from the state's Distinguished Professors Endowment Trust Fund to create a \$1 million professorship.

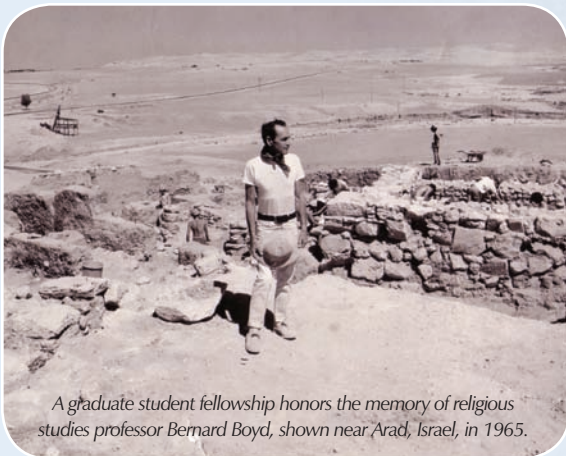
"Through our long-term friendship, Dick Krasno has made me aware of the importance of endowed professorships because they allow the University to attract and retain top-notch teachers and scholars," said Don Dixon. "Dick is in the business

of giving away endowed professorships. I thought — what better way to honor my friend than endowing a professorship at Carolina in his name."

Dixon is co-founder and managing director of Trident Capital, an equity and venture capital firm based in Palo Alto.

Prior to joining the Kenan Trust, Krasno was president of the Monterey Institute of International Studies in California, and president and chief executive officer of the Institute of International Education in New York. He also served as deputy assistant secretary of education in Washington, D.C. and as an officer of the Ford Foundation.

Krasno serves on a number of corporate and nonprofit boards and is a director of UNC Health Care. He holds a Ph.D. from Stanford University. •



A graduate student fellowship honors the memory of religious studies professor Bernard Boyd, shown near Arad, Israel, in 1965.

Students of the late Bernard Boyd say he was more than just a professor of religious studies at Carolina. He was an inspiration, a teacher and scholar whose skill in the classroom was matched only by the wise advice he offered to students in guiding their future careers.

Former student Stephen P. Oliver '70, managing director of Calibre, a company that specializes in multi-generational wealth

Reeves Foundation urges alumni to support young teacher-scholars

management, said Boyd's classes were popular among students. Oliver signed up for all of Boyd's classes.

"His electives were at the top of the list, and he pulled in students from all disciplines, not just religious studies," Oliver said. "He was a legacy, an icon who had an impact across the whole University."

The Bernard Boyd Graduate Student Fellowship, named by students in his honor, will help attract an outstanding graduate student in religious studies to Carolina through a competitive financial award.

The Boyd Fellowship is just one example of graduate support that helps attract promising students to the College and strengthens the University's tradition

of creating the next generation of scholars and teachers. In recent years, competition for the best and brightest graduate students has become fierce. Fellowships and other forms of financial support are often the determining factor in a student's decision to stay at Carolina.

To support graduate students, the Reeves Foundation, a New Jersey-based family philanthropy with strong Carolina ties, is offering a new challenge. If alumni contribute a total of \$600,000 to endowed graduate student support through Dec. 31, the Reeves Foundation will create a new \$300,000 graduate student fellowship in the College.

For more information on supporting graduate students, contact the Arts and Sciences Foundation, 134 E. Franklin St., Chapel Hill, N.C. 27514, (919) 962-0108. •

Legacy of Leadership

Ruel Tyson steps down as first director of the Institute for the Arts and Humanities

By Angela Spivey

At the June 2006 celebration of his almost 20 years directing the Institute for the Arts and Humanities in UNC's College of Arts and Sciences, Ruel Tyson looked at his watch and decided it was getting late; too late to read the eight-page speech he had spent two weeks preparing.

"When it came my turn, it was something like twenty of eleven, and I knew we had all been sitting a long time," Tyson said.

His love of writing and thinking led Tyson to write those eight pages, but his practical side made him decide to read just the last one.

James Peacock, Kenan Distinguished Professor of Anthropology, who has done field work with Tyson, compares him to the German thinker Goethe, who was a poet but also a minister of state. Like Goethe, Tyson is a man of both word and deed, Peacock said. "His creating and administering the institute is an example of that."

His gaze intense even behind his large glasses, Tyson seems to read people and situations as closely as he reads the quotations he loves. In the summer of 1986, he read his colleagues' "terrifically low morale" and decided to do something about it.

"There was already a crisis with us, in that era, about keeping our best people," Tyson said. "We were picking brilliant young scholars and teachers at the assistant professorship level, working with them for six years. They would get tenure, and then Columbia would come along and offer them double the salary."

Tyson asked a few colleagues to bring their lunches once a week and talk. "The first couple of weeks, we griped and lamented and complained," he said. "In the third and fourth weeks, we really got down to what

we thought would be some of the answers to our problems."

At the sixth meeting, then-Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Gillian Cell accepted the group's invitation to join them. "She came with her yellow pad and her bag lunch," Tyson says. Cell ended up appointing a larger committee. By the next summer, an on-campus fellowship program, then called the program for the arts and humanities, had become reality. "I think the budget was \$10,000," Tyson said.

Tyson and others continued to raise additional funds, through private gifts, for fellowships that gave faculty time to develop both their research and teaching projects.

Those first fellows found that not only did the research leave give them a chance to

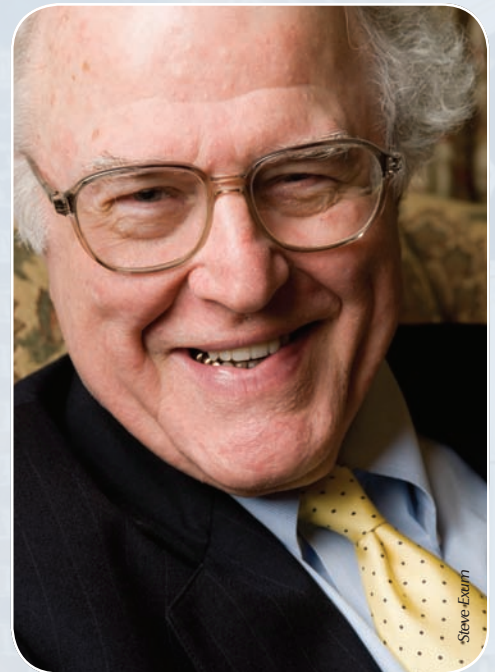
Under Tyson's leadership, the institute has supported almost 400 faculty fellows and moved into Hyde Hall, the handsome facility completed in 2002, carefully designed to blend with its historic surroundings on McCorkle Place.

recharge, but their time around the table with other fellows helped them make unexpected connections.

"Three of them worked in German language materials, all in a different department, and when they discovered each other, instant community was born," Tyson said. "That was the kind of thing that began happening over and over again."

Under Tyson's leadership, the institute has supported almost 400 faculty fellows and moved into Hyde Hall, the handsome facility completed in 2002, carefully designed to blend with its historic surroundings on McCorkle Place.

This year, Tyson has handed the directorship of the Institute for the Arts and Humanities over to English scholar John McGowan, who will also hold the new Ruel W. Tyson Jr. Distinguished Professor-



Ruel Tyson

ship funded in Tyson's honor.

After 39 years at the University, Tyson hasn't given up teaching, and will resume classes in fall 2007 after a research leave. An avid walker, he's been experimenting with incorporating physical activity into his ethics classes. It started with his asking sleepy-eyed

students in an 8 a.m. class to get up and stretch. Now he has his personal trainer talk with students about sitting, standing and walking, and

he assigns them to take a 30-minute walk (without an iPod or other technology), then write about what they felt, heard and saw. "I can't talk to them about ethics unless they have a sense of themselves and other people and the world," he said.

It's easy to see why Tyson's students often stay in touch, visiting him and his wife Martha at their home. John W. Burress, a former member of the institute's board and one of the supporters of the Tyson professorship, considers Tyson a friend as well as a colleague.

"You can have lunch with Ruel for two hours, and it seems like an hour," Burress said. "You always leave a conversation with Ruel feeling like you've learned something. And you always leave with a smile." •

—Learn more about the institute online at www.iah.unc.edu.

HIGHLIGHTS

Nurturing Academic Leaders

\$5 million Hyde gift will support new generation of University leaders

By Kim Weaver Spurr '88

Barbara Hyde hopes the expansion of the Institute for the Arts and Humanities' Academic Leadership Program will help develop "the next generation of Ruel Tysons" — dedicated academic leaders who want to stay at Carolina and help shape its future.

Tyson, the first director of the institute in the College of Arts and Sciences, stepped down in summer 2006 after being at the helm for nearly 20 years. (See story, page 24.)

"Teaching has always been at the core of what Ruel does. Now he's applied his intellect and curiosity to make the University a better place," said Hyde. "Ruel sets the table for conversations, brings together the right ingredients, steps back, stirs the pot and makes it happen. I'm hoping that this program will multiply the 'Ruels' on campus and support the ones already there."

Hyde, who earned a bachelor's degree with a double major in English and religious studies in 1983, and her husband, Pitt, a 1965 alumnus, have pledged \$5 million to endow and name the Ruel W. Tyson Academic Leadership Program. It is the largest single gift to the institute and a key gift to the College. Barbara Hyde is president of the J.R. Hyde III Family Foundation and director of the J.R. Hyde Sr. Foundation of Memphis, Tenn. She also chairs the institute's advisory board and serves on UNC's Board of Trustees.

Hyde took several religious studies courses under Ruel Tyson as an undergraduate. After graduation from Carolina and a year away, she came back to the University as a development officer and got to know Tyson when "the institute was just a twinkle in his eye." Later, as the executive director of the Arts and Sciences Foundation, she helped Tyson to raise the money to get the institute launched. After she left the University, Tyson

invited her to serve on the institute's board. And she and her husband, Pitt, gave the lead gift to build the institute a new home in 2002 — in Hyde Hall on McCorkle Place.

"There are few people outside of one's family whose impact you can trace on your life over multiple decades," Hyde said. "All of us who love and support the University had at least one of those teachers in our lives who helped to get the intellectual spark going. Ruel was that teacher for me. In some ways, Ruel has guided my own personal leadership program. The beauty of Ruel is that he's done that for so many other people, both inside and outside of the University. He has that magic touch of combining the intellectual vigor and excitement of a great teacher and his personal warmth and charisma with an ability to build connections with people."

The Hydes' \$5 million gift will allow for expansion of the Academic Leadership Program, which prepares faculty for academic, intellectual and institutional leadership roles at the University and provides ongoing support for faculty who have assumed such positions.

Since the program's inception in 2002, 42 leadership fellows have benefited from the program.

Fellows participate in a semester-long seminar where they discuss critical issues facing the University and faculty members' participation in University life. They undergo a week of leadership training at the Center for Creative Leadership in Greensboro and participate in two overnight retreats focused on career development, leadership skills assessment and personal vision. They continue to meet as an ongoing forum of fellows, where they offer mutual support to each other.



Barbara Hyde says Ruel Tyson was an inspiration to many.

Jack Boger was a faculty member for 16 years before becoming dean of the UNC School of Law in June 2006. He participated in the Academic Leadership Program in spring 2003.

Boger said the opportunity to come together for reflection with faculty from different disciplines was important.

"It knits you to the Carolina fabric even more tightly. ... We talked a lot about the life cycle of faculty members and the different stages of one's participation in University life," he said. "We would talk about particular issues that had arisen in our own work and reflect on them collectively."

The Hydes' gift will make possible the next generation of the Academic Leadership Program in the College. New leadership initiatives include a program for faculty who are department chairs and a program for new faculty. The expansion of the program also will allow for continuing career development for faculty and a future leadership program for senior administrators.

John McGowan, the new director of the institute, is particularly excited about the programs for faculty chairs and new faculty. McGowan, the Ruel W. Tyson Jr. Distinguished Professor, will have a chance to participate in the Academic Leadership Program himself in spring 2007.

"We like the idea of bringing young faculty in for an extended period of time, so that they can then form a support group with people in other departments, but it will also give them a chance to *know* this University — because we hire people from all across the country." •

AN EXCERPT



President Lyndon Baines Johnson celebrates the signing of the Voting Rights Act, Aug. 6, 1965, with Martin Luther King and, to his right, Ralph Abernathy.

(Congress renewed the act this summer as parts of it were set to expire.)

Photo by Yoichi R. Okamoto, courtesy of LBJ Library.

Bloody Sunday in Selma

By Taylor Branch '68

EDITOR'S NOTE:
From At Canaan's Edge by Taylor Branch. Reprinted by permission of Simon & Schuster, Inc. New York. The culmination of Branch's stunning three-part biography of Martin Luther King, covers one of the most tumultuous periods of modern U.S. history, 1965-68. The author spent those years at UNC, where

he earned a B.A. in political science and history and began campaigning for Eugene McCarthy. This excerpt opens on March 7, 1965, as 600 voting rights petitioners are beaten and tear gassed while attempting to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Ala., a televised turning point in the civil rights movement. Copyright © 2006 by Taylor Branch.

Down the Pettus Bridge before John Lewis and Hosea Williams opened a vista of forbidding reception. In the middle distance, a wall of trooper cruisers blocked all four lanes of Highway 80. Closer, a reserve of some 150 troopers, sheriff's deputies, and possemen mingled behind a front line of 25 troopers about 200 yards beyond the foot of the bridge — the possemen in khaki jackets and white helmets, 15 of them mounted on horseback, the troopers in blue uniforms and blue helmets. Scores of white spectators jammed the parking lot of "Chicken Treat, Home of the Mickey Burger," some standing on parked cars, across the highway from several dozen Negroes who gathered cautiously behind an old school bus. Near the front line, outside the showroom of Lehman Pontiac, troopers guarded an observation area reserved for journalists and several of the 20 FBI observers scattered around Selma....

What the cameras recorded as Williams and Lewis continued methodically down

the slope was an eerie silence, broken by the snorting of horses. After they had covered roughly a hundred yards of level ground, a quietly spoken order ahead introduced unnerving new sights and sounds to the marchers: snapping noises that swept along the barrier line ahead as officers secured otherworldly gas masks of bug-eyed goggles and elongated rubber snouts. Williams and Lewis halted the march line at a separation of 50 feet when an unmasked trooper stepped forward with a bullhorn. "It would be detrimental to your safety to continue this march," said Major John Cloud, a scholarly-looking deputy to Al Lingo. "And I'm saying that this is an unlawful assembly. You are to disperse. You are ordered to disperse. Go home or go to your church. This march will not continue. Is that clear to you? I've got nothing further to say to you."

"May we have a word with the major?" asked Williams. Without amplification, his voice was barely audible to the journalists nearby.

"There is no word to be had," replied Cloud. He gave the marchers two minutes to withdraw, and the lines faced each other silently in front of Haisten's Mattress and Awning Company. Lewis and Williams looked straight ahead, wearing light and dark raincoats, respectively, each with a buttoned tab collar pushing forward his necktie. Behind Lewis, Bob Mants stood motionless in an overcoat and collegiate scarf, wearing "high-water pants" that were stylish on the Atlanta University campuses, stopping five inches above the ankle. Behind Williams stood Albert Turner in rural denim, carrying a stuffed backpack that evidenced the hope of the Perry County marchers to sustain themselves all the way to Montgomery. Mants and Turner wore the jaunty Sluggo cap, also known as the Big Apple hat.

After one minute and five seconds, Major Cloud addressed his front unit without the bullhorn: "Troopers, advance." The blue line of elephantine masks moved forward with slow, irregular steps, overlapping and concentrating to curl around the front ranks of marchers.

COLLEGE BOOKSHELF

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With nightsticks held chest high, parallel to the ground, the troopers pushed into the well-dressed formation, which sagged for nearly four suspended seconds until the whole mass burst to the rear, toppling marchers with accelerating speed as troopers hurtled over and through them. Almost instantly, silence gave way to a high-pitched shriek like the war cry of Indians in Hollywood movies, as the march line screamed and white spectators thrilled, some waving encouragement alongside the charge. Lewis shot out of the mass at an angle, leaning oddly as he sank to the ground in five steps, felled by a truncheon blow to the head. A clattering of horses' hooves on pavement signaled the general deployment of Alabama reserves and raised the volume of the pulsing shrill yell. Two troopers in the forward tangle stumbled over bodies into a heap and came up swinging clubs. The sharp report of guns sounded twice on the first launch of tear gas, one round reportedly fired by Sheriff Clark himself. A canister landed behind a moving wave of chaos that had not yet registered all the way back up Pettus Bridge toward Selma, where some marchers in the distance still knelt in prayer as instructed.

From the tangle in the foreground, a Negro woman came spilling out to the side, pursued by one masked trooper and struck by two others she passed. Three ducking Negro men crossed toward nowhere with an injured woman they carried by arms and a leg, her undergarments flapping. Horsemen and masked officers on foot chased marchers who tried to escape down along the riverbank, herding them back. The cloud of tear gas from canister and spray darkened toward the mouth of the bridge, obscuring all but the outlines of a half-dozen figures on the ground and scattered nightsticks in the air. •

Taylor Branch has donated his notes, drafts and recorded interviews for the King trilogy to UNC's Southern Historical Collection in Wilson Library.

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- **Tides of Consent: How Public Opinion Shapes American Politics** (Cambridge University Press) by James A. Stimson. The Raymond Dawson Distinguished Professor of Political Science, a widely recognized expert on the impact of public opinion, discusses how governments rise and fall when public views shift. This highly readable paperback edition integrates 50 years of opinion research.
- **Peter, Paul & Mary Magdalene** (Oxford University Press) by Bart D. Ehrman. In previous works, the acclaimed expert on early Christianity debunked the DaVinci Code and revealed how Jesus was often misquoted and misunderstood. Now Ehrman, the James A. Gray Distinguished Professor of Religious Studies, provides a lively exploration of the myths and facts surrounding Christ's best known followers.
- **The Encyclopedia of North Carolina** (UNC Press) edited by William S. Powell. This first single-volume reference to the events, institutions and forces that have shaped the state includes some 400 photographs and maps, and more than 2,000 entries from 550 scholars, librarians, journalists and others. It's a people's compendium compiled by the history professor emeritus whom the *Raleigh News & Observer* called a "living repository of information on all things North Carolinian."
- **Shinemaster** (Carnegie Mellon University Press) by Michael McFee. The poet and creative writing professor's seventh collection presents the paradox of plenitude amidst scarcity in playful and poignant ways, with poems about sweet potatoes, popular music, spitwads, sex education, Sunday school, belching, a shoeshine kit and more.
- **Finishing Touches** (Tryon Publishing Co., Chapel Hill) by Michael Chitwood. This creative writing instructor's latest collection includes essays on a brother-in-law's pumpkin business and the death of bluegrass legend Bill Monroe, as well as fiction tales about a hairless tattooed dog and an ailing Pulitzer Prize-winning professor who is visited in the hospital by Jesus.
- **Citizen Speak: The Democratic Imagination in American Life** (University of Chicago Press) by Andrew J. Perrin. Effective citizenship in a democracy requires much more than voting and writing letters to the editor. Through interviews with a range of citizen activists, the assistant professor of sociology shows that healthy democracies rely on creative thinking, talking and active participation in civic life. •

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COMING SOON

Oct. 17: WALLACE BROECKER

GLOBAL WARMING

7 p.m., Carroll Hall

Considered the world's leading interpreter of the earth's operation as a biological, chemical and physical system, Wallace Broecker received the National Medal of Science in 1996 for "pioneering contributions to the understanding of the circulation of the oceans, global carbon cycle and the record of global climate changes." He will discuss: "What should we do about fossil fuel CO₂?" His visit is co-sponsored by the College of Arts and Sciences, the departments of geological sciences and marine sciences, and the Carolina Environmental Program.

Oct. 23: RICHARD HAASS

U.S. FOREIGN POLICY AND NATIONAL SECURITY

7 p.m., Carroll Hall

Iraq, Afghanistan, Israel, Lebanon, Iran, China, North Korea — the foreign policy/national security plate has rarely, if ever, been this full. Richard Haass, president of the Council on Foreign Relations and a former adviser to Secretary of State Colin Powell and President George H.W. Bush, will provide an informed and critical analysis of the role of the U.S. in global affairs today. He will be on campus as the Frey Foundation Distinguished Visiting Professor in the College of Arts and Sciences. The Frey Foundation, established by Edward J. and Frances Frey of Grand Rapids, Mich., is chaired by their son, alumnus David Gardner Frey, BA '64, JD '67.

Feb. 28: TIM O'BRIEN

MORGAN WRITER-IN-RESIDENCE

7:30 p.m., Memorial Hall

Though he opposed the Vietnam War, Tim O'Brien was drafted in 1968, won a Purple Heart for his service there and has been writing about it ever since, including some of the most compelling war-related fiction of our time. He is the author of an acclaimed memoir and seven books of fiction, including *Going After Cacciato*, winner of the National Book Award; *The Things They Carried*, named one of the 10 best books of the year by *The New York Times* and a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award; and *In the Lake of the Woods*, named the best novel of the year by *Time* magazine and one of the 10 best books of the year by *The New York Times*.

The Morgan Writer-in-Residence Program in the English department was established by alumni Allen and Musette Morgan of Memphis, Tenn.

To learn about these free public events, and others, see our online news and calendar at: college.unc.edu.



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